<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 15, 2010. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 are in the application. Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,409,401 (Petteruti). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 generally concern printing image information from a storage device attached to a recording medium. Authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels is written to the storage device. In addition, user authentication information is input.

According to one aspect of Claims 1, 7 and 9, there is a determination of a range of printable image information stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium.

According to another aspect of Claims 1, 7 and 9, an image is printed based on the determined range of printable image information.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to securely print a range of information for an authorized user, from the storage device.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The apparatus includes an input unit which inputs image information including first image information to be printed on a recording medium and second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the

recording medium. Additionally, the apparatus includes a printer which prints an image on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached. The image is based on the first image information. A writing unit writes the second image information to the storage device attached to the recording medium. In addition, the apparatus includes a controller controls the printer to print the image based on the first image information on the recording medium, and controls the writing unit to write the second image information and authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels to the storage device. A printable range of the second image information differs at each level. The apparatus further includes a reading unit which reads the second image information and the authentication information stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium, and a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information. The controller determines a range of the second image information which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input by the user authentication information input unit, based on the authentication information read by the reading unit and the user authentication information input by the user authentication information input unit, and controls the printer to print an image based on the determined range of the second image information read by the reading unit.

Independent Claims 7 and 9 are directed to a method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1.

Independent Claim 10 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The apparatus includes a printer which prints an image. A reading unit reads image information and authentication information stored in a storage device attached to a recording medium.

The authentication information corresponds to each of a plurality of levels, and a printable range of the image information differs at each level. In addition, the apparatus includes a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information. The apparatus further includes an controller which determines a range of the image information which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input by the user authentication information input unit, based on the authentication information read by the reading unit and the user authentication information input by the user authentication information input unit, and controls the printer to print an image based on the determined range of the image information read by the reading unit.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) determining a range of printable image information stored on a storage device attached to a recording medium, and (ii) printing an image based on the determined range of the image information.

As understood by Applicants, Petteruti is directed to a portable printer capable of printing on media and encoding information onto RFID circuits coupled to the media. See Petteruti, Abstract. A printer controller receives commands and data from a host terminal, and determines whether the commands and data are valid. If the commands and data are not valid, the command is ignored. If the commands and data are valid, the printer controller reads an RFID tag address of an RFID circuit, encodes the RFID circuit with the received data, and reports success or error of the encoding to the host terminal. See Petteruti, Figure 3.

Page 6 of the Office Action asserts that Petteruti (Column 4, lines 33 to 67) discloses determining a range of second image information to be printed, and controlling a printer to print an image based on the determined range of second image information.

However, the cited portions of Petteruti simply disclose printing data from a host terminal or a computer onto a print medium and/or encoding such information on the storage device. The encoded information may later be read from the storage device to ensure its validity. See Petteruti, Column 4, lines 33 to 67.

Nevertheless, Petteruti is not seen to disclose or suggest that any of the information stored on the storage device is ever printed. See, e.g., Petteruti, Figure 3. Thus, Petteruti is not seen to disclose or suggest printing information stored in a storage device attached to a recording medium, much less (i) determining a range of printable image information stored on a storage device attached to a recording medium, and (ii) printing an image based on the determined range of the image information.

Therefore, independent Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the claims, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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